desirable thing. I need not justify this measure because it is obviously a non-controversial measure. The investment of such a power in the Health Department is highly desirable. As the Honourable Members may know the sanitary conditions of some of our drama sheds and other places of entertainment are not quite good as they ought to be. It is only to confer this power to the Health Department that this amendment is proposed. The Department may interfere in suitable cases. I now submit that the Bill may be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The title of the Bill is a "Bill to amend the Places of Public Resort Regulation, X of 1097."

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I further move that the Bill may be taken into consideration straightway. There is no necessity to appoint a Select Committee as this is only a very small non-controversial measure.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I Second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I beg to move that the Bill may be taken up and passed on Thursday.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I Second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—On a point of information, may I know the reason why the first Bill was not moved.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I do not move the first Bill because under the Council rules as it stands it is not admissible because that Bill was passed over during the last meeting under Standing Order No. 26. In printing the Agenda that matter does not seem to have been noticed. That is why you did not hear anything about that Bill.

The Cochin Penal Code Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Now I rise to move the Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code. This again is not only a non-controversial measure but will, I feel sure, be acclaimed as a piece of progressive legislation. This amendment is to do away with what may be called something like a system of indentured labour, provision for which exists in our Penal Code,

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but which provision has been repealed long ago in British India. Section 472 of the Cochin Penal Code reads thus:—

"Who-ever being bound by lawful contract in writing to work for another person as an artificer, workman or labourer for a period not more than three years at any place within Cochin to which by virture of the contract he has been or is to be conveyed at the expense of such other, voluntarily desert the service of that other during the continuance of his contract, or without reasonable cause refuses to perform the service which he has contracted to perform, such service being reasonable and proper service, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one month, or with fine not exceeding double the amount of such expense, or with both; unless it shall appear that the employer has ill-treated him or neglected to perform the contract on his part." This provision was repealed in British India several years ago. So the Government thought that it is high time that it should be repealed here also. There will be no difference of opinion in this matter and therefore I move to introduce the Bill.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The title of the Bill is "A Bill to amend the Cochin Penal Code".

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I beg to move that the Bill may be taken into consideration forthwith suspending the Standing Order.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

President.—The Standing Order is Suspended.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I further move that the Bill may be finally passed on Thursday.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I beg to move an amendment that the Bill my be taken up and passed at the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I second it.

Amendment put and negatived.

Motion put and carried.

Bill to amend the Cochin Press and Registration of Books Regulation.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran:—I beg leave to introduce the Bill to amend the Cochin Press and Registration of Books Regulation.

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